Crewmen of the Armed Espionage Ship "Pueblo" of the U.S. Imperialist Aggressor Army Affirm That They Are Criminals Caught Red-Handed While Committing Hostile Acts after Intruding Deep into the Territorial Waters of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea by Order of the U.S. Imperialist Authorities, and

Demand That the U.S. Government Answer for the "Pueblo" Incident and Make Sincere Efforts for Their Repatriation

Crewmen of the Armed Espionage Ship "Pueblo" of the U.S. Imperialist Aggressor Army Send Personal Letters to Officials of the U.S. Administration, U.S. Senators and Members of the House of Representatives, Governors of States, Their Families, Relatives and Friends

The crewmen of the U.S. imperialists' armed espionage ship "Pueblo" seized by a self-defence action of naval ships of the Korean People's Army while committing an espionage activity and hostile acts after intruding deep into the territorial waters of our country sent letters recently to their parents, wives and children, Johnson, Rusk and other officials of the U.S. Administration, U.S. Senators and members of the House of Representatives and Governors of States whom they know well, and so forth.

These crewmen who have been under detention in our country since January 23 entreated the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea time and again to allow them to write to their parents, wives and children, relatives, friends and many of their close acquaintances in the United States.

The crimes committed by the crew of the U.S. imperialists' armed espionage ship "Pueblo" against our people are very grave. But, considering that they had already frankly confessed to the facts of crime before our people and pledged that they would never join again in such shameful espionage acts and that they had been involved in the aggressive acts by order of the top circles of the military, the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea accepted the entreaty of the crewmen of the "Pueblo" for conveying their letters to the United States and provided them all communication media.

In their letters the crewmen of the U.S. imperialist armed spy ship "Pueblo" unanimously expressed thanks for the leniency of the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea which provided them, who had been captured red-handed while committing hostile acts after intruding deep into the territorial waters of our country, an opportunity for sending news to their native land. Referring in the letters to their situation after their capture, they wrote as one on the fact that they are getting on in good health here and they are receiving humanitarian treatment from the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

In the letters they also pointed out that the confessions they had already made and their joint letter of apology submitted to the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea were from the bottom of their heart and frankly told the addressees the circumstances of the criminal acts they themselves had committed so the latter might have clear understanding of the truth of the "Pueblo" incident.

They once again affirmed and admitted that the armed spy ship "Pueblo" of the U.S. imperialist aggressor army intruded deep into the territorial waters of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea six times from January 11 and January 23 along a course carefully planned beforehand and conducted espionage on important military and state secrets of our country, at the instructions of the U.S. Army, Navy and Air Force Joint Chiefs of Staff and by direct order of the Command of the U.S. Naval Forces, Japan, and it was committing, when it was seized, grave hostile acts after intruding into the waters up to the point 39°17.4' N., 127°46.9' E., 7.8 miles from Yodo, in East Korea Bay and pointed to the mission they were fulfilling at that time and the criminal consequences of the fulfilment of this mission. In the letters the crewmen of the "Pueblo" said that the facts about the crimes they had committed were so clear beyond refutation that they felt no need to argue about the correctness of these facts and, therefore, the U.S. government which had driven them out into the road of crime should and must admit at the earliest date the intrusion of the "Pueblo" into the territorial waters of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and its espionage acts, the truth of which had already been exposed to the whole world, and openly apologize to the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea for this and guarantee against the repetition of such hostile and aggressive acts. And they remarked that this is the only way for resuscitating their fate.

In their letters the crewmen of the "Pueblo" expressed their apprehensions that if the U.S. government persistently clings to its untenable insistence, continuously turning away its face from the facts that have already been made clear, the solution of the question of release, repatriation and lot of the crewmen of the "Pueblo" can hardly be expected and it may bring about the worst result of putting an end to their life as criminals. Contained in every clause of their letters are words of earnest requests of the crewmen picturing before their eyes their native places and parents, wives and children they left at home.

The crewmen of the U.S. imperialist armed spy ship wrote about the graveness of the crimes they had committed and the responsibility of the U.S. government as the organiser of the crimes and the ways they have explored themselves to get an opportunity for their resuscitation. And they hoped for early replies from the addressees of their letters of sincerity and the crewmen of the "Pueblo" are awaiting replies.

* * *

As it is made clear in the content of the letters sent by the crewmen of the "Pueblo," the intrusion of the "Pueblo," an armed spy ship of the U.S. imperialist aggressor army, into the territorial waters of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and its malicious espionage acts are gangster-like piracy and crude encroachment upon a sovereign state and part of the premeditated aggressive manoeuvres of the U.S. imperialist war maniacs.

As the crewmen of the U.S. imperialist armed spy ship "Pueblo" are the criminals who were caught red-handed while perpetrating criminal acts against our country, they must be treated by the law of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. It is self-evident that those who encroach upon the sovereignty of other's country, no matter who they may be, will not be able to escape punishment by that country. In the light of these facts, the criminal acts perpetrated by the crewmen of the U.S. imperialist armed spy ship "Pueblo" are very grave. But, a graver and heavier responsibility for their criminal acts rests with the U.S. imperialist authorities which ordered them to commit the espionage and hostile acts against our country.

We, taking these points into consideration, may deal leniently to a certain extent with the question as far as the crewmen of the armed spy ship "Pueblo" are concerned. If the U.S. imperialists make proper apology to us and give assurances that they will not repeat similar hostile acts. This proceeds from our stand to solve the question practically.

There was such precedent already in the past. If the U.S. imperialists have the slightest concern about the lot of the crewmen of the "Pueblo," they must make due apology for their crimes and guarantee against the repetition of similar crimes.

This is what the crewmen of the "Pueblo" asked and hoped for unanimously in their letters.

What subterfuge can the U.S. imperialist aggressors, who organised the crimes, find now when none other than the persons concerned who were aboard the "Pueblo" and who directly fulfilled the mission in it admitted and confessed to all the facts, and all the facts have been proved by material evidences they had directly worked out and recorded?

Nevertheless, the U.S. imperialists are ridiculously resorting to every conceivable deception and crafty ruse to conceal their criminal acts and their ugly aggressive nature and justify them before the world people and public opinion.

If the U.S. imperialists are really concerned about the lot of the crew of the "Pueblo," they will not be able to deny the true-hearted confessions of its crewmen and material evidences.

If the U.S. imperialists really want to solve the "Pueblo" incident smoothly and take over the crewmen of the "Pueblo," they should not act arrogantly, letting out preposterous, silly sophistry but act sincerely and discreetly in face of the stark reality.

With no ruse or trick can the U.S. imperialists force their gangster-like logic upon the Korean people.

If the U.S. imperialists continue to persist in their unwarranted stand the question of the crewmen of the armed spy ship "Pueblo" cannot be solved but will drag on, and it will only prove with greater clarity that the U.S. imperialists are not concerned about their crewmen.

The capture by the naval vessels of the Korean People's Army of the U.S. imperialist armed spy ship "Pueblo" and its crewmen who illegally intruded into the territorial waters of our country and perpetrated hostile acts is a legitimate measure belonging to the sovereignty and defence right of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and, therefore, it entirely belongs to the right of our country how to deal with this incident. How the Democratic People's Republic of Korea will exercise this sacred, legitimate right—this will be decided only by our Government according to what attitude the U.S. imperialists take.

The U.S. imperialists must realize clearly that they will never be able to shirk their responsibility for the criminal acts committed by the crewmen of the armed spy ship "Pueblo," and act with discretion.

We will never tolerate any provocative manoeuvres of the U.S. imperialists and will smash the aggressive machinations of the scoundrels at every step.

As Marshal Kim Il Sung, the great Leader of the 40 million Korean people, said, "Our people and People's Army will return retaliation for the retaliation" of the U.S. imperialists, all-out war for all-out war."

The U.S. imperialists must look straight at the steadfast determination of the heroic Korean people and stark reality and must not run riot. (KCNA)

OUR PAPER prints in this issue the full text of some of the personal letters addressed by crewmen of the captured U.S. imperialist armed espionage ship "Pueblo" to officials of the U.S. Administration, members of the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives and Governors of States and to their families, relatives and friends. The U.S. armed espionage ship "Pueblo" was captured by a self-defence action of naval ships of the Korean People's Army, while it was committing espionage activities and hostile acts after intruding deep into the territorial waters of the D.P.R.K. **(See Page 10-12)** **—Ed.**

Some of crewmen of the U.S. imperialist armed spy ship "Pueblo"—senders of the personal letters

PERSONAL LETTERS

of Crewmen of Captured U.S. Imperialist Armed Spy Ship "Pueblo" Addressed to Officials of U.S. Administration, U.S. Senators and Congressmen, Governors of States, and Their Families, Relatives and Friends

Letter from Petty Officer Second Class Peter M. Langenberg to Senator Stuart Symington

The Honourable Stuart Symington,
United States Senator
Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C.

Dear Senator Symington,

I am a resident of Clayton, Missouri now serving in the United States Navy. In May of last year I was assigned duty on the U.S.S. Pueblo (AGER-2). As is probably known to you, this ship has been captured by the Korean People's Army, and consequently, I am at present held in detention in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. I address this letter to you as my senator in order that my position here may be clearly known to the American Government.

At the beginning of this year the Pueblo sailed from Yokosuka, Japan under official navy orders to conduct electronic and photographic intelligence on the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. To conceal its activities, however, the Pueblo posed as an oceanographic research vessel. During the course of the cruise the Pueblo intruded deep into the territorial waters of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea on six occasions to collect specific military information, to determine the availability of the Naval Forces of the Korean People's Army, to identify the sites of radar installations along the coast. On the twenty-third of January we were arrested by the Korean People's Army 7.6 miles from the coast while conducting espionage activities. Just prior to capture I was involved in the destruction of the highly classified documents aboard as per the standing orders of our officer-in-charge and commanding officer. We destroyed much of our equipment and burned many of the classified papers.

After our capture the crew of the Pueblo tai first resisted and denied the accusations against us, since we desired to safeguard the honor of our country, and also in the hope of escaping the weight of the charges. Shortly, however, the futility of such a course of action was demonstrated to us as representatives of the Korean People's Army placed before my shipmates and myself the operating orders, navigational charts, logs, position reports, intelligence aids which, due to my position on board, were familiar to me, and various other documents taken from the Pueblo. These proved beyond a doubt the espionage activities of the Pueblo. In addition the commanding officer, executive officer, research officer, and others have freely confessed committing premeditated espionage against the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. In light of this the stern reality of our crimes became apparent to me, and I thereupon felt a strong remorse and guilt for my part in the criminal activities of the Pueblo. Thus it was that together with my shipmates I frankly admitted my crimes and offered my sincere apologies to the Korean people in a letter written by our officers.

Since our capture, the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea has accorded us humanitarian treatment. Our daily necessities have been met; food, warm clothing and shelter, recreation and medical services being provided.

I must point out that we are not considered prisoners of war, but rather criminals caught in the act. In light of this together with their hatred for the United States, such humanitarian treatment has required much leniency and generosity on the part of the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. I am grateful of course for such treatment, but, frankly, to lead this life for a long or indefinite period would prove for me spiritually unbearable. My enlistment of four years is due to expire in March this year and I had planned to attend college in the fall. As I am certain you understand, I do not desire to lose my youth and perhaps my life condemned as a common criminal. Should the United States, however, admit, as did we, the espionage deeds of the Pueblo, apologize to the Korean people for such acts, and assure their cessation in the future, then, I believe that the case of my shipmates and myself would be more favourably reviewed.

I hope that I have not been impertinent in writing to you in this manner. My sole intention was to present the situation in which I now find myself. Any decisions concerning my fate I want to be made on solid facts, and I beseech you to convey the information presented above to the appropriate parties in the government. This letter has been written from my earnest desire to return to my families and my friends, and in the hope that my future will be bright. I hope that you will do all in your power to see the case of the crew of the Pueblo to a successful and happy conclusion.

I would be grateful if you could notify my parents upon receipt of this letter, as they would be most anxious for news of me. The address is:

Mr. and Mrs. O.M. Langenberg
4955 Pershing Place
St. Louis 8, Missouri (63108)

I thank you for your time and patience.

Respectfully Yours,

Peter M. Langenberg

Petty Officer Second Class
United States Navy
USS Pueblo (AGER-2)

Some of crewmen of the U.S. imperialist armed spy ship "Pueblo" —senders of the personal letter

Letter from Ensign Timothy Leon Harris to His Wife

Mrs. T.L. Harris & Harris Family
6968 Delisle DR
Jacksonville, Florida
United States of America

My dearest Linda,

By now I am sure you have heard that I am a POW in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. Again we are apart because of my desire to be a naval officer. I can't say how sorry I am for the unbearable misery I have caused you. You must be very lonely and sad. I think of you night and day and hope in the near future our lives will always be what we dreamed of. I hope you can forgive me for bringing you into such a terrible plight.

Honey, please feel reassured that I am healthy and safe. I have not been injured or mistreated since being captured.

I think it is best at this time to relate to you all the facts and circumstances surrounding the USS Pueblo's activities and the reason for its being captured.

We received our orders to conduct espionage against the Democratic People's Republic of Korea from COMNAVFOR in Japan. We were ordered to conduct our mission in four main ports: Chongjin, Songjin, Wonsan and Mayangdo. In these areas we were to gather information concerning naval activity of the People's Army of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. Along with this information we took photographs of various ships moving in and out of these ports. The ship was also designed to collect communication intelligence data with highly advanced equipment aboard to do this task. Communication Intelligence is the collection of different types of radar signals transmitted from land, sea or air. There is a group of research personnel assigned to the ship who performed this job. Attached to the ship were two civilian oceanographers, who took measurements of the territorial waters of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. These measurements included temperature of the water, type of ocean floor and determined sound velocity of the waters which is useful for submarines detecting signals in these areas in the future. All the above data was kept in various logs to be used after our return to file a report on our findings.

In order to do the job we on occasions intruded deep into the territorial waters of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. On 23 Jan. 1968, the day we were captured, we were 7.6 miles from the Island of Yo Do which is very near the port of Wonsan. We were definitely caught violating the territorial waters of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

Prior to our capture on the 23 January 1968 the captain ordered all documents and equipment to be destroyed. We put forth a gallant effort to fulfill this order but the task was too large owing to the fact of the great numbers of classified materials aboard. In destroying these documents and pieces of equipment we had hoped to erase the idea of espionage that we were conducting.

During the first two weeks of our detention we flatly denied our espionage activities. We were desperately trying to protect the honor and dignity of the United States and would not admit espionage in fear of the punishment we would receive for such a grave and serious crime. In view of the fact that the evidence concerning our espionage mission was captured and in the hands of the People's Army we realized that it was a fruitless attempt to deny the cold, hard facts. We tried to remain loyal to our country to the very last but in face of the evidence it was an impossible effort.

We have all admitted conducting espionage and have made confessions to such. We have written a letter of apology to the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea for the crime we have done. Also a letter was composed which was addressed to President Johnson which asked him for assistance in our return home. In the letter we asked our government to admit and apologize for our espionage activities and to assure this type of action will not happen again.

Linda, I beg that if there is anyway at your disposal to persuade our government to admit, apologize and assure, please do so. If you can write a letter to a congressman, file a petition, or make a request to a government official, do not hesitate to do so. You must try to take some action to convince our government to come to our aid. Linda, you must realize what we have done is very serious and constitutes a crime against the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. I sincerely hope that you try in a desperate attempt to help us. We can only be together when our government does these things and they must be persuaded by our families. You must know that our government is responsible for us being apart now and should try to bring us back together again.

I am very sad and lonely without you. But every day I relieve over in my mind the future for us and feel better. I think how wonderful it will be to come home to you every night. You are in my mind and thoughts always and the reason for my lasting desire that I will soon be released to be with you again. Before I forget try to get another income statement from the navy, also the post office, your bank and fill out our returns. In April a school payment is due. The paper work on this is in the brown folders that you have. In these you will find a schedule of payments to be made.

Also I hope you do something to occupy your times so it will pass quickly and we will be together again.

Linda, I request that you always be behind me in whatever happens on comes of this situation. You are my wife and I need you very much. You are my whole life and I know how you are waiting for me. I love you beyond your expectations and miss you very much. No matter what happens always remember that I love you always.

Honey, that is about all I have to say. Please try to help me and say a pray in church Sunday that we will soon be united again.

Be waiting and thinking of me. Keep in touch with Rose Bucher to find out what is happening. Please write me a letter soon.

Love always

Timothy Leon Harris

Letter from Petty Officer Third Class Angelo Salvatore Strano to the U.S. President

President of the United States
White House
Washington, D.C.

Dear sir,

I am a member of the crew of the USS Pueblo (AGER-2). Since our capture by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, I have been treated very well and have been given any medical attention that has been needed. They have given us a warm place to sleep and clean clothes to wear. We get enough food to eat and exercise twice a day to keep us healthy. Since we were engaged in espionage activities at the time of our capture we are not prisoners of war but criminals that can be tried and tried under the laws of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. In view of this fact I was surprised at the humanitarian way that they have been treating us. However unless the United States takes quick measures to solve this case I do not know how long this treatment will last.

The Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea has shown us documents from

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the ship that drove beyond a doubt that the USS Pueblo AGER-2 was conducting espionage activities in the territorial waters of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. Among these documents was the position Log Book which gave our position every fifteen minutes. According to these records we were in territorial waters. The course chart was also shown to me and the various spots pointed out where we had intruded into the territorial waters of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. There were logs, books and reports taken from the room where most of the electrical equipment was kept. This is conclusive proof that the USS Pueblo was conducting espionage activities in the territorial waters of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. Along with this the officers and crew have confessed that we were in the territorial waters of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and that we were engaged in espionage activities. We have also signed a joint letter written by our officers apologizing to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea for our criminal acts. In the light of these facts I can see no reason why the Government of the United States should not officially apologize to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and assure them that it will not happen again. I hope that the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea will return us if an official apology and assurance is sent to their government. Further delay will only prolong our stay here and we are all looking forward to the day, that we can be returned to our families.

I sincerely hope that the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the Government of the United States can agree on various matters that they might be discussing and that a solution be worked out so that the officers and crew of the USS Pueblo (AGER-2) can be returned home as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

Angelo Salvatore Strano
PO 3rd Class Electronics Technician
USN USS Pueblo
(AGER-2)

Letter from Seaman Apprentice Larry Joe Marshall to U.S. Senator Robert F. Kennedy

To the Honourable Robert F. Kennedy
United States Senator
Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C., U.S.A.

Dear sir,

As of Jan. 23, 1968, I was aboard the U.S.S. Pueblo. This letter that I am writing you is concerned entirely on this ship, its mission, and its crew.

We left Yokosuka, Japan for Sasebo, Japan, Jan. 5, 1968. From Sasebo, Japan we went to the East Sea of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. While operating off the shores of the D.P.R.K. at many different occasions we intruded deep into the territorial waters of the D.P.R.K. I took for granted that the ship I was on was strictly on a scientific mission. But later on I found this to be very untrue. We intruded deep into the territorial waters of the D.P.R.K. to collect intelligence material along the shores of the D.P.R.K. They were four main ports, these were Songjin, Chongjin, Mayangdo, and Wonsan. While operating off the coastal waters of the D.P.R.K. at several instances we intruded deep into the territorial waters of the D.P.R.K. On the last day we were captured while conducting espionage activities entering as far as 7.6 miles off Yodo near Wonsan. This is one of the many pieces of evidence which prove that our mission was truly a mission of espionage against the D.P.R.K.

The first of the documents I saw concerned the mission of the U.S.S. Pueblo and similar ships which were to undertake the same mission. The fact that really shocked me was that these were not only against Korea, but against China, Soviet Union, Viet Nam, and other countries. The second of these facts which I saw stated that we were to collect intelligence material such as electro-magnetic waves which were transmitted from the radar stations at different ports which were mentioned earlier in this letter.

On board were two oceanographers which were to collect data from the sea for future mine warfare and so on, if it is ever needed. There was a map showing the different contacts which they had gotten. The position of these contacts we stated clearly in the position log kept on the ship. Our photographer on board was to take pictures of any ships which came into view. We were to notice any activities of ships, subs and soon, at each of these ports. Sir, these are only a few facts which I saw clearly and read in front of me. I know these facts to be true and to the points which I have told you. As you know sir, espionage is a very serious crime, more or less punishable severely. When I joined the navy I swore to give my life for my country, but I do not wish to give it for something such as this.

The Korean people and their government are being very lenient with us. They are being very, very lenient. They are treating us well. We have good food, warm clothes, and warm beds to sleep in. I am very grateful to them for doing so. At the present there are three things the United Stated Government must do which will be favorable towards our return home. Our government must 1.) admit to these crimes 2.) apologize for them 3.) assure that it won't happen again. I am asking that you do everything you can to get us out of here and back to our homes and families soon. We were only following orders from our superior officers sir. There is no reason for us to suffer for their mistake. I am hoping and praying that you will influence the United States Government so that they may get us back to our homes and families soon. I am hoping you will do everything you can to get us out of here sir. I will close now.

Please help us.

Sincerely yours,
Larry Joe Marshall
USN Deckhand USS Pueblo (AGER-2)
SN Apprentice.

Letter from Petty Officer Second Class Charles William Ayling to His Family

To Family of Robert W. Ayling
13 Woodland Drive
Staunton,
Virginia, U.S.A.

Dear family,

The capture of the Pueblo by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea probably came as quite a shock to y'all. Me too. Let me assure you, though, that I'm alive and in good shape. We presently reside in a military barracks located I know not where. We have heated rooms, clean beds, warm clothing, sufficient food, and medical attention if needed. We also have morning and evening exercise periods.

Despite what you may have heard, the Pueblo was actually an electronic and oceanographic espionage ship. My job was to maintain cryptographic and other electronic equipment. Our Captain has confessed to us that Pueblo violated the territorial waters of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea on several occasions prior to our capture on 23 January by naval units of the Korean People's Army. I have apologized to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea for my part in the Pueblo's activities.

The Korean People's Army now has in its hands incriminating evidence against the Pueblo.

Recently we were given the opportunity to see and individually inspect some significant documents from this collection of evidence. We examined top secret intelligence reports, maps showing radar locations in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, together with other items that prove conclusively the true mission of our ship. We also saw navigational charts and position log books that confirmed the intrusions confessed to us by our Captain. The weight of this evidence has thoroughly convinced me of the Pueblo's guilt. There can be no doubt about the Pueblo's espionage operations against the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

We are all most anxious to rejoin our families. You people are in my thoughts continually. (I was allowed to retain a photograph from my locker, and I chose one showing the six of us sitting on the dock at Sangers' Mountain Lake.) We may be detained here indefinitely, though, unless the United States decides to swallow some of its pride and confess the truth. I feel certain that our return home would be hastened by 1) an apology from the United States for the Pueblo's activities, and 2) a firm guarantee that these espionage activities will not be repeated.

Anything you can do to help bring us home would be much appreciated.

Hope everything is O.K. in Staunton.

Love
Chuck

P.S. Happy 16th Birthday, Beth!
P.P.S. You may send a reply by addressing Charles W. Ayling c/o Democratic People's Republic of Korea Please write soon.

Charles William Ayling

Letter from Petty Officer Third Class Darrel Dean Wright to Senator Eugene McCarthy

The Honourable Eugene McCarthy
United States Senator
Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C.

Dear Senator McCarthy,

I am a sailor that was stationed aboard the U.S.S. Pueblo (AGER-2) at the time of its capture in the territorial waters of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea on 23 January 1968. I am writing this letter to you in hope that you will use your influence to help me and the crew of this ship.

I am an engine man and because of my job status I left Sasebo, Japan with the knowledge that this ship was on a purely scientific oceanographic research mission.

We were captured 7.6 miles from the coast of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea by naval units of the Korean People's Army committing hostile acts of aggression and espionage against the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

At first I tried to deny these activities because the facts of the true mission were never made available to me, to protect my honor as an American sailor, and because of the severe punishment subject to this crime.

A few days after our capture the entire ship's crew witnessed a display of evidence taken from the ship and now in the possession of the Korean People's Army. In that display was the following: official orders from the Commander Naval Forces Japan stating collections requirements for the ship's mission, maps with radar site locations, navigational charts and position logs showing 5 or 6 intrusions into the territorial waters of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, secret and top secret publications and listened to confession of the commanding officer and other ship's officers.

With this evidence before me, I found it quite ridiculous for any further denial of our activities and confessed and apologized for my part in the grave crime committed against the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. My presence at the time of our capture makes me a member of the espionage party and cannot escape punishment.

As tragic as the circumstances are there is still hope only if the United States Government admits that they ordered us here for the purpose of espionage, makes a sincere apology to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea Government and to the people of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and makes assurance to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea that such acts will never be committed again. I hope this will help leniency be granted for our crimes and be permitted to return home to our families.

I sincerely believe that it would be such a waste to sacrifice the American lives of the crew of this ship to deny what black and white documents prove otherwise.

It is my life long hope and desire that the United States Government will be sincere and make the apologies necessary for a possible return home of the crew members stationed aboard the U.S.S. Pueblo. I sincerely hope that you will use your influence in the Government to pursuade the Administration to make a sincere apology to the Government and the people of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. This is our only hope for repatriation.

Sincerely Yours,

Darrel Dean Wright
P.O. 3 U.S.N.
USS Pueblo (AGER-2)

Some of crewmen of the U.S. Imperialist armed spy ship "Pueblo" —senders of the personal letter

Letter from Seaman Richard Everett Arnold to His Parents

Mr. and Mrs. Everett C. Arnold
1041 Glacia Drive
Santo Rosa, California, USA

Dear mom and dad,

As you know by now our ship has been captured by the Naval Forces of the Korean People's Army while in their territorial waters. Since the time of our capture we have been treated in a very lenient manner considering the seriousness of the crimes that we committed against the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. They have given us a warm room, a bed, and 3 hot meals a day. We take hot baths and are shaved regularly. We have a deck of cards and several ping-pong tables. They have given us magazines to read to tell and show us about Korea and its people and how industrious they are. From what we have heard, and seen they have some very beautiful country here.

We have been here for over a month but it seems like a year or more. I hope that we are released from here soon so that we can all be together again soon, but it is up to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, when and if we are to be released. They took us in a room where they had a lot of the secret papers off our ship and let us read them so we all

(Continued on Page 12)

(Continued from Page 11)

would know what the ship had been doing and where it had been operating. Our quartermaster pointed out a position where we had been as close as 7.6 miles off the coast of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

We have all written out confessions telling and admitting of our crimes. We have apologized and asked for the leniency of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. When our government has apologized and admitted to the crimes they sent our ship here to do and have given the assurance that such a thing will never happen again, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea may have a more favorable attitude towards us, thus it may speed our return home. We have done all we can here to help make our stay a short one, but now it's up to our government to do its part so that the Democratic People's Republic of Korea will look more favorably towards us, so that in time we might be sent home.

I don't believe that our government is acting as fast as it should be on this situation. If you could write a letter to our Congressman or our Senator telling them what I have told you in this letter, maybe they can help in speeding up our return and getting us home.

They placed a lot of pictures on a table and let each man pick out his own, and keep two of them. I kept the one of everything that was taken over at Ivan's house at Thanksgiving, I think. There was one that dad took of the family, your brothers, sisters, and of your mom and dad. The other one I kept was the one of Sandy (sure miss her). I miss all of you and wish I were home now, but will have to wait and see what happens.

How are you and dad getting along? Fine I hope. We are doing OK here, don't worry about us too much and pray that our government will do what is necessary, so that maybe we will be returned home before too long. If the Democratic People's Republic of Korea will forgive all of us and our government for the acts of aggression that has been committed. I don't believe that any country has ever treated a group of prisoners guilty of espionage in such a humane manner as these people have been treating us.

I sincerely hope you'll do your best to persuade the United States Government to openly apologize as early as possible. I am quite anxious to receive your replies. Several days ago we got a happy news from the United States of America's Red Cross which carried pleasant information about the birth of a son of Hagenson, my roommate and shipmate here in the place of our detention, and he was congratulated by all of us. Judging from this, the home news can possibly reach us, and so you also may send me any news by any route. I'll be waiting for them.

Love and miss you all

Richard Everett Arnold

Letter from Engineman Peter Milton Bandera to Governor Paul Laxalt

The Honourable Paul Laxalt
Governor, State of Nevada
State Capitol Building
Carson City, Nevada
U.S.A.

Dear Governor Laxalt:

I am writing this letter from the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and have been detained here since January 23, this year. I was an engineman aboard the U.S.S. Pueblo (AGER-2) when it was captured by the Naval Forces of the Korean People's Army while conducting espionage activities.

I was ordered aboard the U.S.S. Pueblo on October 13, 1967. I reported aboard the ship in San Diego, California and departed for Yokosuka, Japan, our home port, on November 5, 1967. I had a year's reserve training in Reno, Nevada, prior to this date.

I was told the ship was an oceanographic and environmental research ship when I reported aboard, however, this was just a cover for the real mission of the ship. Our mission was to conduct military intelligence operations against the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. We entered into territorial waters six times while conducting our espionage activities.

The Pueblo departed Yokosuka, Japan, on January 5, this year. We were given orders to proceed to the East Sea off the coast of Korea. Our mission was to find out, through surveillance and intelligence, the number and types of ships and radar locations. We were also to take oceanographic samples to find out the feasibility of submarine operation in these waters.

Through my job, as an engineman, I helped the other members of the crew to carry out their espionage activities. This in no way lessens the gravity of my crime. The military activities were quite hostile against the D.P.R.K. I tried to deny the facts, but evidence captured with the ship could not be denied. I have confessed to the Korean people and I have sincerely apologized for my grave crime as did the crew and our officers.

I am asking, through you, for the U.S. government to apologize to the D.P.R.K. publicly and to stop their espionage activities. This will greatly affect the safe return of myself and my shipmates to our families. I hope that you can help persuade the Johnson Administration to make this apology.

I am very sorry for having been a part of this crime of espionage. These people realize that we were acting under orders and have taken this into consideration. Since our capture we have been given a warm room, warm clothing, and food. We have been treated very leniently in view of the grave crime we have committed.

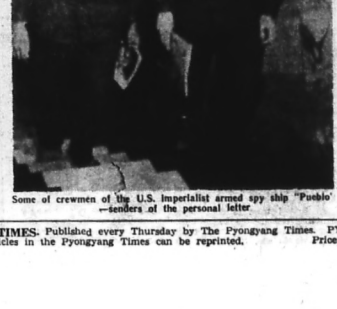
My only hope is that our government realizes this and takes the necessary steps to affect our release. The Korean people have every right to punish us according to their laws and will do so if the United States Government takes steps other than the ones I have above mentioned.

This letter has been written from the bottom of my heart and it is my sincerest hope that your influence can affect my safe return home. I would appreciate it if you would let my parents know that you received this letter. Tell them that I am always thinking about them and hope to be home real soon.

The address is: Peter Bandera
Rt. 1, Box 618
Carson City, Nevada

Sincerely Yours,

Peter Milton Bandera Fn.
USS Pueblo (AGER-2)
United States Naval Reserve



Some of crewmen of the U.S. imperialist armed spy ship "Pueblo" —senders at the personal letter

Letter from Petty Officer Second Class Elton Alan Wood to His Wife

Mrs. Elton Alan Wood
East 924, Sharp Avenue
Spokane, Washington, 99202
United States of America

Dearest Lin,

I am truly happy that I have been given this opportunity to write to you and to assure you that I am physically well and have been treated in a human manner.

I cannot express how much I miss you and Elaine nor can I tell you how much I want to learn of our new child. Since we parted in the United States my heart has been filled with nothing but loneliness and the desire to be with you again. And now, having been arrested and detained by a foreign country, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, my loneliness for you has become unbearable. Having taken all factors concerning our capture into consideration and after negotiating with the officials of the Korean People's Army and examining the circumstances carefully I have arrived at a sound conclusion:

"Our future will be one of happiness if this case is settled by our government in a sophisticated manner."

The futures of all members of the Pueblo's crew will be ones of happiness if this case is properly treated.

We miss our families very much and we have but one desire—to return home safely to the ones we love as soon as possible.

On January 23rd the USS Pueblo was captured by several ships of the Korean People's Army. Early the next morning we arrived at our present place of detention and have been here since then. The Pueblo was captured by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea after several intrusions deep into their territorial waters and was accused of espionage activities.

During the early stages of our detention we were quite conscious of our military code of conduct and we upheld it strongly and to the best of our abilities. Upon being captured, we destroyed a lot of our classified documents. However, we were unable to do a thorough job. Consequently, only a few days had elapsed before the Korean People's Army had gathered enough information from our ship to prove that the Pueblo was involved in espionage activities against their country. The information they had found left no doubt in the Pueblo's mission. Therefore, our commanding officer, commander Lloyd M. Bucher, had no alternative but to honestly and frankly admit to our crime. By not confessing at that time he would have made a foolish mistake and we would now be guilty of multiple crimes rather than a single one.

The Korean People's Army has ample evidence of our crime, and now, all 82 of us, are at the mercy of the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

Since our detention we have submitted a joint letter of apology to the government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea from the whole crew of the USS Pueblo. Our fate now depends entirely upon a formal apology to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea from our government via the American Administration. Also, since the Korean people have ample information to convict the Pueblo of espionage, it would be a fatal mistake for the United States Government to attempt to hide behind some kind of political camouflage. The assurance that this act will not be repeated must be included in the apology to the Korean people.

By no means whatsoever do I denounce the Government of the United States of America! I simply point out the facts truthfully and well known the circumstances concerning the Pueblo incident and I propose the only solution through which we, the 82 crew members of the Pueblo, may possibly be returned. The solution lies with all members of the Pueblo. Our revival is fully dependent on our government's attitude toward the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

Lin, it is most important that our parents, brothers, sisters, relatives and friends know the contents of this letter and that they fully understand all points mentioned. I miss very much the warmth, kindness and help which I had previously gotten from all of them and I now pray that they will again render these comforts for not only my life, but also for the lives of the other 81 members of our crew. We all need your help desperately in this matter which determines our fate. It is not necessary to mention the penalty for the crime of espionage. Yet, despite the severity of our crime the Korean people have given us a chance to repent for our offence. As a result, we have new hope for our revival and for our return home.

We have already drafted a letter to the President of the United States explaining in detail the entire situation and the conditions government must meet in order to ensure our safe return. The letter will be delivered soon.

We would appreciate any constructive influence you could exert on our city, district, state and government officials that would speed our return. The means by which you do this, whether it be verbally or by letter is insignificant. However, all help, regardless of its form, will be appreciated.

If our dreams are realized and we are permitted to go home, we will never be able to express well enough our sincere gratitude for the help you have given us.

Again darling, I say I miss and love you and our children and that I am constantly yearning for the moment that we rejoin as a family for the rest of our lives.

I also miss and long to be with our parents, brothers and sisters and friends once again. I ask you to continue to pray for our safe return and I will assure you that I will do the same.

Lin, I send you all my love. I am awaiting your reply.

Love always,

Elton

Letter from Petty Officer Third Class John White Grant to Senator Smith

U.S. Senator From Maine Smith
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C.
United States of America

Dear Senator:

I am writing to you as a citizen of the State of Maine, and a member of the crew of the USS Pueblo (AGER-2).

On January 23, 1968, I was captured, along with the rest of our crew, by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea's army, and am presently being held on the charges of espionage.

Prior to my capture, my ship had made several intrusions into territorial waters of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, and committed hostile acts against the D.P.R.K. These acts constituted covert intelligence operations, including communications intelligence, visual intelligence, and photographic intelligence, besides others.

I have seen documents, captured by the Korean People's Army, which show the mission, tasking, courses, and gathered intelligence of the ship. I have seen charts taken from the ship's bridge, verified by our first class navigator (quartermaster), which show the plots of our ship's courses. There were several instances where our ship had indeed made several intrusions into the territorial waters of the D.P.R.K.

I have heard the confessions made by my commanding officer, executive officer, research operations officer, and operations officer, L. Bucher, CMDR; E. Murphy, Lt; S. Harris, Lt; and C. Stumacher, Lt (JG) respectively. These officers openly confessed their parts in the acts committed by our ship. Their confessions clearly show that armed intrusions were made by our ship into the territorial waters of the D.P.R.K.

After seeing these documents, and hearing these confessions, I am fully aware of the gravity of the charges against me. I myself, and all the other members of the crew openly admit our guilt and the roles we played in violating the sovereignty of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. However, we were but following the orders issued to us by our superiors, and are not alone to blame for our actions.

I believe that all the United States need do is apologize to the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, and assure the Korean people that such activities will no longer be conducted, and we will be repatriated. All we desire is to once again be with our loved ones in our homeland.

I ask you to intercede in our behalf, and assist the government in arriving at a speedy solution to this problem.

Very respectfully yours,

CT3 John White Grant USN
USS Pueblo (AGER-2)

THE PYONGYANG TIMES. Published every Thursday by The Pyongyang Times. PYONGYANG, Democratic People's Republic of KOREA
Any articles in the Pyongyang Times can be reprinted. Price: 10 jon No. 13014